

Democrats, to the Polls!

Let all who are in favor of a judicious system of internal improvements, which will develop the resources of the State and do justice to the West and all who are in favor of preserving State credit and paying the State debt, go to the polls and *vote for John W. Ellis*.

Let all who would sustain the administration of James Buchanan, who is one of the most devoted friends the South has ever had in the Presidential chair, go to the polls and *vote for John W. Ellis*.

Let all who are opposed to Know Nothingism, and to distribution, which is a proposition in disguise to increase our tariff taxes and render us more dependent on Northern manufacturers, go to the polls and *vote for John W. Ellis*.

Let all who are in favor of the Lecompton Constitution, which would have made Kansas a slave-holding State, and all who are opposed to the designs of the black Republicans, who in common with the Know Nothings of the South would rejoice over a Democratic defeat in North-Carolina, go to the polls and *vote for John W. Ellis*.

Let all who would rebuke a changeling in politics, a disorganizer and self-seeker, a politician who is "all things to all men" for votes, who is for one thing in the East and for another thing in the West, and the tendency of whose arguments is to injure the State credit, and to render her dependent on the federal centre by placing her in the attitude of a beggar for land warrants, go to the polls and *vote against Duncan K. McRae*.¹¹⁵

The people of North Carolina elected John W. Ellis as their Governor, by a majority of 16,383 votes, on Thursday, August 5, 1858. Ellis received 56,429 votes, and McRae 40,046.¹¹⁶ Lasting only three months, the campaign had been very strenuous, the candidates covering the State from the mountains to the sea.

Six days later, on Wednesday evening, August 11, the "Hon. John W. Ellis, Governor elect of North Carolina, and Miss Mary McKinley [Daves], daughter of the late John P. Daves, were united in the holy bonds of matrimony."¹¹⁷ The Episcopal ceremony was performed in Christ Church, New Bern, before "quite a concourse of people of both sexes."¹¹⁸ The "amiable and lovely" Miss Daves was a member of one of the most distinguished families in North Carolina.

The people of Craven County were highly pleased with the choice Ellis made in selecting the first lady of the State. Appearing in the local newspaper, the following announcement indicates their pride:

¹¹⁵ *North Carolina Standard*, July 31, 1858.

¹¹⁶ *North Carolina Standard*, December 7, 1858.

¹¹⁷ *The New Era and Commercial Advertiser* (New Bern), August 16, 1858, hereinafter cited as *The New Era*.

¹¹⁸ *The New Era*, August 16, 1858.